

Pursuant to the notices published at 1096 Off. Gaz. Patent Office 30 (Nov. 15, 1988) and 1157 Off. Gaz. Patent Office 86 (Dec. 28, 1993), it is respectfully requested that this communication be treated as an informal communication.

DRAFT DO NOT ENTER

Application No. 09/806,322 "Biological Fluid Filter and System" (Bormann et al.)

1. (Amended) A filter device for processing a biological fluid comprising:
 - a housing having an inlet and an outlet and defining a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet;
 - a filter disposed in the housing across the fluid flow path, the filter comprising:
 - a first filter element comprising a porous fibrous leukocyte depletion medium having a CWST of at least about 70 dynes/cm; and
 - a second filter element comprising a porous membrane having a pore size of about 5 micrometers or less, said second filter element being disposed downstream of the first filter element;
 - wherein the filter is arranged to allow plasma to pass therethrough and substantially prevent the passage of leukocytes and red blood cells therethrough.
2. A filter device for processing a biological fluid comprising:
 - a housing having an inlet and an outlet and defining a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet;
 - a filter disposed in the housing across the fluid flow path, the filter comprising:
 - a first filter element comprising a porous fibrous red cell barrier and leukocyte depletion medium having a CWST of at least about 70 dynes/cm; and
 - a second filter element comprising a porous membrane having a pore size of about 5 micrometers or less, said second filter element being disposed downstream of the first filter element;
 - wherein the filter is arranged to allow plasma to pass therethrough and substantially prevent the passage of leukocytes therethrough.

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10. (Amended) A method for processing a biological fluid comprising:

passing a red blood cell- and leukocyte-containing plasma-rich biological fluid [through] into a filter device comprising a filter including a fibrous leukocyte depletion medium and a membrane; and

collecting, from the filter device, a filtered plasma-rich biological fluid substantially free of leukocytes and red blood cells.

11. (Amended) A method for processing a biological fluid comprising:

passing a leukocyte-containing plasma-rich biological fluid [through] into a filter device comprising a filter including a fibrous red blood cell barrier medium and a membrane; and

collecting, from the filter device, a filtered plasma-rich biological fluid substantially free of leukocytes.

12. (Amended) A method for processing a biological fluid comprising:

processing a biological fluid to provide a supernatant layer comprising a leukocyte-containing plasma-rich fluid, and a sediment layer comprising a red blood cell-containing fluid;

passing the leukocyte-containing plasma-rich fluid [through] into a filter device comprising a filter including a fibrous leukocyte depletion medium and a membrane; and

collecting, from the filter device, a filtered plasma-rich fluid substantially free of red blood cells and leukocytes.

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14. (Amended) A method for processing a biological fluid comprising:

depleting leukocytes and platelets from a red blood cell-containing biological fluid to provide a leukocyte- and platelet-depleted red blood cell-containing biological fluid;

processing the leukocyte- and platelet-depleted red blood cell-containing biological fluid to provide a supernatant layer comprising plasma and a sediment layer comprising red blood cells;

passing the supernatant layer through a filter device comprising a filter, the filter comprising a first filter element comprising a porous fibrous leukocyte depletion medium having a CWST of at least about 70 dynes/cm; and a second filter element comprising a porous membrane having a pore size of about 5 micrometers or less, said second filter element being disposed downstream of the first filter element; wherein the filter is arranged to allow plasma to pass therethrough and substantially prevent the passage of leukocytes and red blood cells therethrough; wherein the filter [device] further depletes leukocytes from the supernatant layer and substantially prevents the passage of red blood cells therethrough; and collecting plasma-rich fluid in a container downstream of the filter device, wherein the plasma-rich fluid is substantially free of red blood cells and leukocytes.

20. A filter device for processing a biological fluid comprising:

a housing having an inlet and an outlet and defining a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet;

a filter disposed in the housing across the fluid flow path, the filter comprising;

a first filter element comprising a porous fibrous red cell barrier and leukocyte depletion medium having a CWST of at least about 70 dynes/cm; and

a second filter element comprising a porous membrane having a pore size of about 5 micrometers or less, said second filter element being disposed downstream of the first filter element;

wherein the filter includes no more than one membrane, and is arranged to allow plasma to pass therethrough and substantially prevent the passage of leukocytes therethrough.